

200205243-1

10/611,825

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed February 16, 2005 and the subsequent Advisory Action mailed April 13, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the forgoing amendment, various claims have been amended and some claims cancelled. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-10, 12-14 and 33-35 will remain pending for further action.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 12-14 and 33, and indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 34 and 35. Consequently, in a first After-Final Amendment of April 6, 2005, Applicant proposed to amend claim 34 as an independent claim and to amend claim 1, adding the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 2.

In response, the Advisory Action of April 13, 2005 stated that, upon appeal and entry of the first After-Final Amendment, claims 1, 3-10, 12-14 and 33-35 would be allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of these claims.

Consequently, the present paper contains the same amendments proposed in Applicant's first After-Final Amendment and additionally cancels all claims except those indicated as allowable in the Advisory Action. Therefore, following entry of this amendment, the present application should be in condition for immediate allowance based on the findings of the Examiner reported in the Advisory Action of April 13, 2005.

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Prior Art Issues:

With respect to the prior art, claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11, 15, 31, 32, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,087,364 to Witmer ("Witmer"). Claims 10, 16, 17 and 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Witmer taken alone. Claims 18-21 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 3,471,160 to Sabo ("Sabo").

Applicant continues to traverse these various rejections based on the indicated prior art. However, in order to expedite the issuance of the allowed claims, Applicant has herein cancelled all claims except those indicated as allowable in the Advisory Action of April 13, 2005.

Applicant expressly reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications directed to any or all of the cancelled claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

Conclusion:

Entry and consideration of this amendment are proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 for at least the following reasons. The present amendment makes only those changes necessary to place the application in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner. The amendment does not introduce new subject matter to the claims and, therefore, does not raise new issues requiring further search or consideration. Therefore, entry of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 116 and is hereby requested.

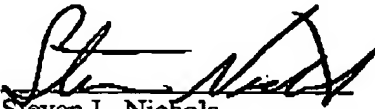
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For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 28 April 2005


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 703-872-9306 on April 28, 2005. Number of Pages: 10


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